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Weekend, June 2-4, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

'WE'RE GETTING OUT'

Trump will withdraw U.S. from Paris climate agreement. 2

Philadelphia Latino Film Festival. 10-11

Eagles secondary concerned. 14

10 YEARS OF THE ROOTS PICNIC

Questlove and Black Thought tell us how it all began and what to hit up this year. 9

PROVIDED

COMEY TO TESTIFY NEXT WEEK IN RUSSIA PROBE

1 Former FBI Director James Comey will testify next Thursday before a Senate panel investigating Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 election, in a hearing that could be difficult for President Trump. In his first public appearance since Trump fired him on May 9, Comey will address the Senate Intelligence Committee on June 8. He will speak at both an open session and behind closed doors, which would allow him to

discuss classified information, the committee said. Allegations that Russia may have helped Trump win the 2016 presidential election and questions about possible collusion by members of his campaign are being investigated by several U.S. congressional committees as well as by the Justice Department. REUTERS

GUNMAN SPREADS PANIC AT PHILIPPINES CASINO

2 A gunman burst into a casino, fired shots and set gaming tables alight in the Philippine capital early on Friday, sowing panic in a country on high alert after martial law was declared in the south, but police said the motive was likely robbery. National police chief Ronald dela Rosa told DZMM radio the lone gunman had not aimed his assault rifle at people at the Resorts World Manila entertainment complex, and may have been trying to steal casino chips. Shots and loud bangs rang out shortly after midnight in the buildings close to Terminal Three of Ninoy Aquino International Airport and an air force base, prompting fears that a militant attack was under way. Medical officials said at least 25 people were hurt, some seriously, as they rushed to escape. REUTERS

BOMBER LOSES BID TO HAVE CHARGES DISMISSED

3 A man accused of setting off bombs in New York and New Jersey which wounded 30 people last September has lost a bid to dismiss charges of attempted murder and other crimes stemming from his shootout with police after a manhunt. In an opinion made public on Thursday, a New Jersey judge rejected Ahmad Rahimi's argument that the indictment should be thrown out because

prosecutors improperly recommended charges to a grand jury and that they failed to show he was deliberately trying to kill officers when he fired. Rahimi, 29, also faces federal charges in New York for setting off an explosive device in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood that injured 30. REUTERS

US TO QUIT PARIS CLIMATE PACT

4 President Donald Trump on Thursday said he will withdraw the United States from the landmark 2015 global agreement to fight climate change, spurning pleas from U.S. allies and corporate leaders in an action that fulfilled a major campaign pledge. Supporters of the accord condemned Trump's move as an abdication of American leadership, an international disgrace and a monumental foreign policy blunder. His predecessor, Barack Obama, expressed regret over the pullout from a deal he was instrumental in brokering. "We're getting out," Trump said at a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden in which he decried the Paris accord's "draconian" financial and economic burdens. He said American withdrawal "represents a reassertion of American sovereignty." Climate Fund, in which rich countries committed billions of dollars to help developing countries deal with floods, droughts and other impacts from climate change. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

15 FINALISTS IN SPELLING BEE VIE FOR $40K PRIZE

5 Competitors in the final rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee picked their way along a precarious lifeline of consonants and vowels on Thursday as they eyed a $40,000 cash prize. On the second and last day of the Bee, 15 competitors were still standing for the final face-off at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in suburban Washington, to be televised live on ESPN beginning at 8:30 p.m. In earlier rounds, some spellers tripped over words including Corriedale, toreutics, cleidoic and panettone, weeding down the field headed for the finish of the 90th national Bee. Others hung on by correctly spelling catafalque, outarde and chryselephantine. Competitors ages 6 to 15 emerged from early spelling bees involving more than 11 million youths from all 50 U.S. states, U.S. territories from Puerto Rico to Guam, and several countries, from Jamaica to Japan. REUTERS

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John Slattery isn't a fan of our sitting POTUS. You can even see that in the films and TV shows he makes. "Spotlight" is a valentine to journalism; "Veep" (on which he played Selina Meyer's boyfriend last season) is a darkly funny look at the White House. **metro.us/entertainment/movies**

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John McKeever (center), directing on the set of Comedy Central's "Delco Proper" with director of photography Chris Newhard. COURTESY OF COMEDY CENTRAL

Philly rally will call for local film industry incentives

Philadelphia's economy might get more of a boost from Hollywood if the government would help out with tax breaks and incentives.

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The Philadelphia Film Office is holding its first-ever rally at the bottom of the "Rocky" steps at Philly's Museum of Art on Saturday for better tax breaks — something that could bring more filming to the Philly area and additional cash to the economy, not only for film technicians, actors and casting people, but for the businesses, restaurants and hotels serving those crews.

One newly active film community member raising his flag for tax breaks and the freedom to spend more in Philly is sketch comedian, writer, director and producer John McKeever of "Delco Proper" fame.

Written by and starring Philadelphia's McKeever and Drexel Hill's Tommy Pope, the show features "characters that are so different but all connected by the invisible red thread that is the Delco/Philadelphia mentality," said McKeever, who set most of the series in a lumberyard. "I think comedy has to come from character, not really jokes. Jokes are obviously important, but when they're just one-liners for the sake of one-liners, it's like, 'Who gives a s—?'"

Not giving a s—? That's "Delco Proper" — a show which debuted with Comedy Central as a limited-run digital series in 2015 with additional episodes added in February 2016 and a request for a network pilot in December, a show that's only now being filmed in the Delco area and edited at the Neighborhood Film Co. in Brewerytown. One thing that's crucial for McKeever and company is to stay local, especially as, in the director's words, he would like to see Philadelphians on screen.

"Normally, when you see a character from Philly on TV, they're fat, dumb, loud, mouth full of insert-bulls—t-local-food-references and whining about sports. To make it worse, it's some actor from the Bronx," he groused. "We plan on showcasing Philly actors, want to shoot the entire thing in this area — using local crew, interiors and exteriors that are all within the city limits."

If "Delco Proper" gets picked up for a full series order by Comedy Central, it would be a no-brainer to shoot in Philly. But without a sizeable tax break, this would likely become a different conversation between network and creative. There's also the fact that cities such as Pittsburgh have their own labor unions and can call their own money shots. Philly is aligned with NYC's Local 52, with Philly's film-set drivers Teamsters 107 also connected to the Big Apple.

"I want to make this show here. I want to hire local crew and talent, but without the incentive, you can see why any network would choose to move the production closer to their home base," McKeever said. "I'm making a show that would be dependent on the best tax incentives. … So, I'll be at the rally. It's great for the Philly film scene. This city has so much to offer, and it's looked over because it's easier to shoot elsewhere."

The Philadelphia Museum of Art rally starts June 3 at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

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Mazzoni Center moves forward with new buildings, new programs

LGBT health center keeps up work for communities after scandal-plagued spring.

A.D. AMOROSI
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letters@metro.us

When the Mazzoni Center's spokeswoman Elisabeth Flynn says "the move was far from easy," she's not just talking about the change of address — a $1.5 million relocation/renovation — of Philly's most comprehensive health and wellness program for the LGBTQ community.

The expansion of Mazzoni from Center City to Broad and Bainbridge at May's end (its HIV-testing hub, the Washington West Project at 12th and Locust, remains in the Gayborhood) was an accomplishment for the award-winning center. Yet, as of late, strange, out-of-the-ordinary scandals have hit the usually squeaky clean Mazzoni with Medical Director Robert Winn, CEO Nurit Shein and Board President Jimmy Ruiz resigning due to alleged sexual misconduct and cover-ups.

That's in the past, however, insists Mazzoni's brain trust, which is looking forward to the big move, the expansion of its TRIP (The Real Impact Project) Program to raise awareness and care regarding sexual health within the African-American LGBTQ community, and a party to celebrate the latter on June 3 at University of the Arts — a "Hard Candy Bash" with New Orleans Bounce music ambassador Big Freedia.

Big Freedia will be performing at the Mazzoni Center's Hard Candy Bash on June 3.

"While the timing for the TRIP Party and the move to our new location have both been in the works for months, and years, respectively, they could not have come at a more opportune time," Flynn said. "So, no, while there's not a direct connection to recent events, the timing of both does indeed offer us the opportunity to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for Mazzoni. As an organization, we are recommitting to our goals and core values and re-engaging with our communities and the people we serve. We are open to new opportunities for connection, community and healing. Our new space will support and encourage that."

If you go:

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Visit *Mazzonicenter.org/hardcandy* for more info.

While a community open house and possibly a block party are slated for the fall for the new Mazzoni office on Bainbridge Street, Flynn said the change is immediate. "The benefits of bringing nearly all of our programs into a single location, adding space, and providing clients and patients with a comfortable and welcoming environment make it absolutely worthwhile and exciting." The new address at Broad and Bainbridge being easily accessible by public transit is crucial for Mazzoni's patients, clients and staff, she added.

Innovation in healthcare is key, said Vernon Brown, TRIP program coordinator. TRIP is a social initiative designed to raise awareness regarding sexual health amongst the African-American LGBTQ community, which the program does through a mix of unique events, outreach and engagement activities promoting self-empowerment and connecting people to important health-re-

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The design for the Mazzoni Center's new home on Bainbridge Street. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

lated resources.

"The program engages and encourages individuals to reach out to their peers and social networks, to talk about health and well-being and provide a space where LGBTQ people of color can share some of the specific challenges they face in these areas, and also celebrate and reinforce their power and resilience," said Brown. "A program like TRIP aims to tap into the power of community, to help individuals find support through friends and peers, build relationships and ultimately build the lives and the futures they wish to see."

If focusing energy on TRIP and making time to heal all Mazzoni wounds isn't worth a loud, bouncy party with Big Freedia — a GLAAD Media Award winner for her reality TV program "Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce" — then nothing is.

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Philadelphia City Councilman Oh stabbed in robbery attempt

The city councilman is recovering from an attempted robbery in front of his home.

HAYDEN MITMAN
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City Councilman David Oh, seen with his wife and children, is in stable condition and recovering after being stabbed in the back outside his home during an attempted robbery. COURTESY OF COUNCILMAN OH'S OFFICE

Republican City Councilman At-Large David Oh was recovering from surgery on Thursday morning after he was stabbed during a violent attack that occurred outside his Southwest Philadelphia home the night before.

According to the councilman's office, after being stabbed on Wednesday, Oh underwent a successful surgery overnight and is "expected to fully heal and return home soon."

According to police, on Wednesday, May 31, at about 9:43 p.m., the 57-year-old was attacked after he arrived home along the 5800 block of Thomas Avenue. As Oh was unloading his vehicle, law enforcement officials said, he was approached by a black male — described as being in his 20s, with a medium complexion, scruffy beard and wearing black jeans, black sneakers, and a black shirt with white writing — and armed with a knife.

Law enforcement officials said that the armed individual demanded Oh's belongings and then stabbed the councilman once in his left side. The attacker proceeded to swing his weapon at Oh after the stabbing, but, police said, neighbors began to come out of their homes, and the man soon fled, running westbound on Thomas Avenue.

Nothing was taken during the attempted robbery, police said. Oh was immediately taken to Penn-Presbyterian Medical Center for treatment.

After the incident, City Council President Darrell Clarke (D-5th Dist.) released a statement noting that the council was monitoring Oh's condition following the attack.

"We are aware of a reported violent attack on Councilman David Oh near his home and are closely monitoring his condition. David is a valued colleague with a young, beautiful family. We ask all Philadelphians to keep Councilman Oh and his family in your thoughts and prayers," the statement read.

Olney man arrested for allegedly trying to kill 7-year-old sister

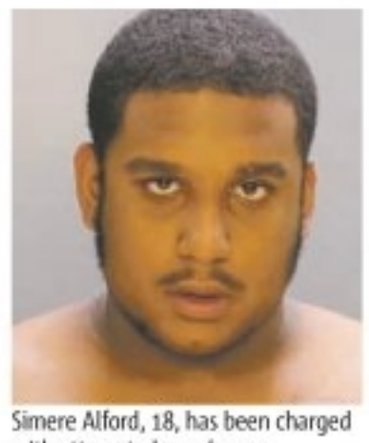
An Olney man has been charged with the attempted murder of his 7-year-old sister.

Police said 18-year-old Simere Alford was arrested and charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and related charges after he was discovered at about 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday in the parking lot of the 35th District.

Alford reportedly broke into a police car and, when discovered, told police he had "done something stupid," Philly.com reported.

Alford was sought by police following an incident that officials said happened around 1:10 a.m. that same day.

Police said Alford's mother told officers that her son was "high on narcotics" and took her vehicle. Officials said that when Alford's mother went into her home to obtain paperwork for her car, she returned about three minutes later "screaming and holding her 7-year-old daughter, who was unresponsive."

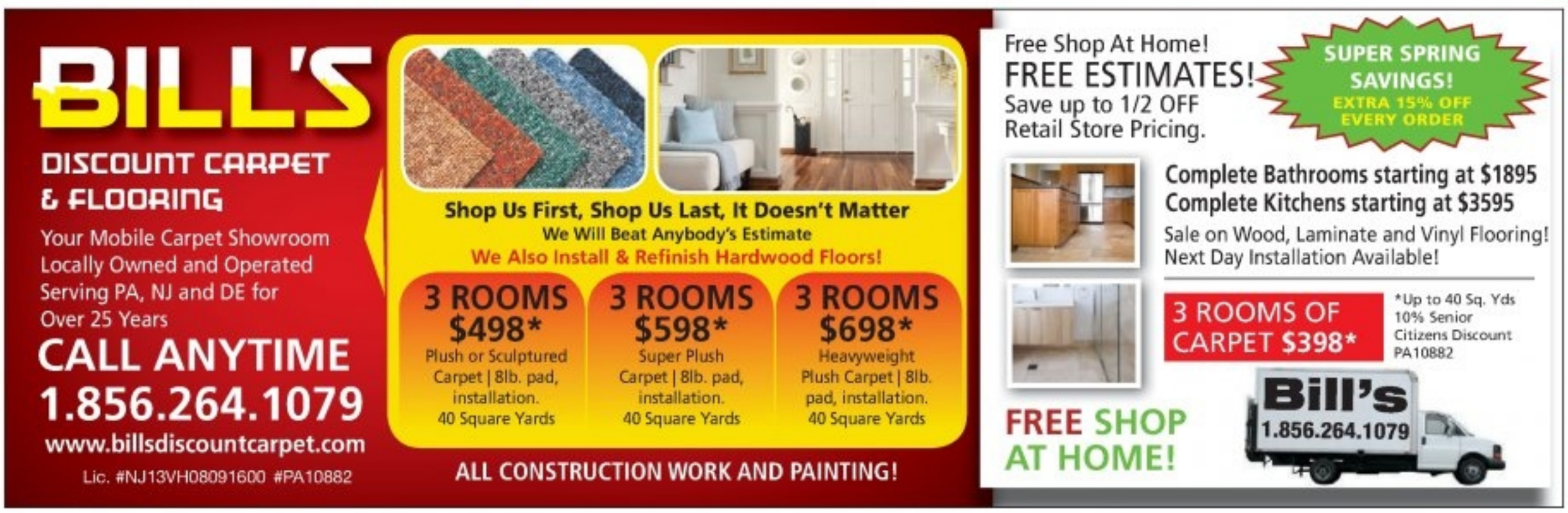


Simere Alford, 18, has been charged with attempted murder. PPD

The girl's mother said she found her daughter on the floor in the basement with a plastic bag over her head.

The responding officer performed CPR as police transported her to Albert Einstein Medical Center, where, officials said, she was placed in extremely critical condition.

HAYDEN MITMAN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The Roots Picnic turns 10

wknd

The Roots have been going strong since 1987. NBC/MARK SELIGER

Black Thought (top) and Questlove met each other at Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA). GETTY IMAGES

Questlove and Black Thought reflect on how it all began.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

The Roots Picnic always brings the heat but this weekend, get ready for an even more epic show. The annual daylong music festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and some of music's biggest names are taking the stage at Festival Pier, including Lil Wayne, Solange, Kimbra, Jeezy and Pharrell, who will be backed up by the Roots themselves.

The legendary Philly band has come a long way since 1987, when its founders, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson and Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter met in the principal's office at Philadelphia's High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA).

"He hates when I tell this story," says Questlove. "My version is that we met on the first day of school when I was in the principal's office getting free tokens for SEPTA, and he was in the office getting suspended on the first day of school."

As their friendship grew, the pair learned a lot from each other.

"I was so much in the streets at the time," Black Thought remembers. "I was exposed to a more street side of the city and running free before school, during school hours and after school. Ahmir was more sheltered and more laser-focused on becoming a professional musician."

Black Thought introduced Questlove to the music his parents wouldn't let him listen to, like Public Enemy, NWA and Ultramagnetic Emcees. In turn, Questlove introduced Black Thought to the musicality of hip-hop — showing him the original songs that were sampled in his favorite tracks.

The Roots have a lot of love for their hometown fans. DAN SOZANSKI

"He was able to play all of those breakbeats and I was a young emcee constantly looking for beats to rap on. It was the perfect fit," Black Thought adds.

They officially became a band when Questlove was trying to impress fellow Philly musician Amel Larrieux at CAPA.

"We were talking about Boyz II Men performing at the Valentine's Day assembly, and she caught me in a Jon Lovitz moment. I was like, 'Yeah I have a group,'" he recalls. "I immediately run to Tariq and punch him and I'm like, 'If anyone asks you, we're a group, OK?' I didn't get the girl, but I got a career."

The Roots have been going strong ever since. So what's the secret to their longevity? While 10 years is impressive for a music festival, 30 years as a band is almost unheard of.

"Constant re-evaluation, reinvention, mutual respect, professionalism — and separate tour buses," reveals Black Thought.

"My bus is Gryffindor and Tariq's is Slytherin," Questlove jokes. "My observation is that open marriages are probably more successful than monogamous ones. It allows you to do other projects and always come back home. And that's what we've always done with the Roots."

If you plan on going to the Roots Picnic this weekend, Black Thought suggests you make a weekend of it.

"It's a one-stop shop for cool hunters," he says. "Head out on Friday night for my comedy show at Punchline, which is followed by Questlove's DJ set at The Fillmore. On the morning of the Roots Picnic, do the Roots Rock Run 5K in Germantown to get your engine going so you can really embrace the day."

The 10th Annual Roots Picnic is tomorrow, with the show beginning at noon. For more information, visit: *rootspicnic.com*.

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The Philadelphia Latino

The event is now in its sixth year.

A.D. AMOROSI
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The Philadelphia Latino Film Festival has been, since its inception in 2012, a gem of a screening series. The festival's first duty is to present amazing films — period — which it does, as well as promote the Latin experience while pushing for dialogues across all sides of the border.

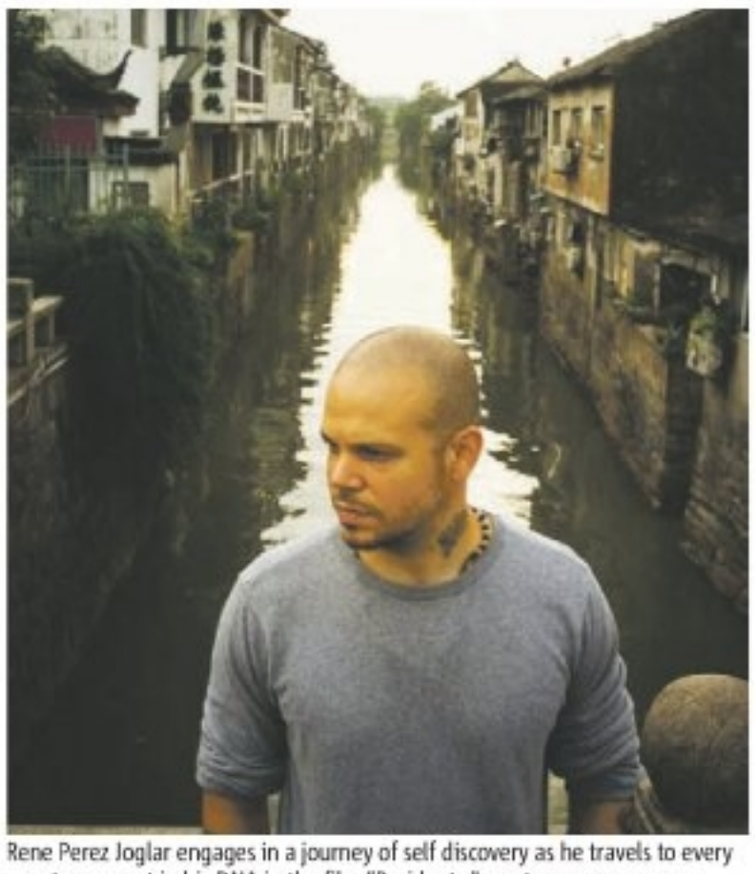
"PHLAFF's mission is to showcase and nurture established and emerging creative Latin American and Latino filmmakers, to promote and celebrate the richness and diversity of all Latin and Latin American cultures and to foster cross-cultural understanding," says festival director Marangeli Mejia-Rabell about working with PHLAFF founders Beatriz Viera and David Acosta. "It's very much a collective effort here."

For its sixth iteration, PHLAFF looks at the inner lives of Latinos everywhere, while dealing with the newsworthy issues plaguing immigrant communities: the monetary strife in Puerto Rico and Venezuela and the immigration battles between Mexico and Donald Trump.

"Each year has its unique flavor," says Mejia-Rabell. "This year the majority of filmmakers coming through are regional and national, and films such as 'La Cucarachita Mandi' ('Mandi the Little Cockroach'), 'Memories of a Penitent Heart' and 'Residente' put things in perspective."

As PHLAFF's mission is to create connections between filmmakers, audiences, collaborators and its key stakeholders, all programming is aligned with a commitment to build community. With that, PHLAFF's Youth Salon has partnered with Taller Puertorriqueño and Edison High School's film department for workshops in character development and mobile filmmaking, a screening of 12 short films and a panel discussion lead by young artists and activists.

"Crossing boundaries is a very concrete thing



Rene Perez Joglar engages in a journey of self discovery as he travels to every country present in his DNA in the film "Residente." PARAÍSO FILMS/STORY HOUSE

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Film Festival is back

when you come from an island," says Puerto Rico-born grassroots activist and actress Aris Mejias, who will moderate a panel called "The Jump: Crossing Boundaries and Oceans."

"Many people have limited knowledge of what really happens on our island, yet are willing to listen and learn. Our cultural output is a great way to start. There is a definite point that determines the existence of another world. This changes your mentality toward life," she adds.

Mejias mentors younger directors, is an active liaison of film content between the island and the U.S., and belongs to an all-female group of entrepreneurs, "Chica-preneurs," who promote cultural content and business ties between the diaspora and Puerto Rico.

"Festivals expose you to a variety of content you would normally miss and PHLAFF has a beautiful attention to detail, especially its great promoting platform, curation and access to quality screening venues."

"Tamara" shares the true story of Tamara Adrian, Venezuela's first transgender elected official. JOEL FILMS INC.

The Defend Puerto Rico Project brings together artists from a variety of disciplines to produce short films about the economic strife most Philadelphians have barely heard of, yet one that greatly affects the entirety of the United States. It is this project's documentary that kicks off PHLAFF, "capturing these great stories that shows the resilience of our people even in the shadow of this crisis," says Defend co-founder Michael Cordero.

"This sets the stage to gives folks a lay of the land of what's going on, how colonialism has created and been the catalyst for what's happening today," he says.

On hooking up with PHLAFF, Cordero adds that now is a good time to give all people, Latino and non-Latino, deeper context.

"Festivals such as PHLAFF put us on a larger stage and create more channels for us to get our stories out. We need to build solidarity with Latino communities across the nation — the globe even — and PHLAFF allows us to connect with them and amplify the voices of our people," Cordero concludes.

The sixth annual Philadelphia Latino Film Festival runs from Friday, June 2, to Sunday, June 4, at the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center, 300 S. Broad St., and the Caplan Recital Hall at the University of the Arts, 211 S. Broad St. For information about the schedule and tickets, visit phlaff.org.

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Our favorite ass-kicking women on the big screen

With the arrival of "Wonder Woman" this week — the first superhero film not starring a dude since 2005's "Electra," and starring Gal Gadot, a woman who's already done action in the "Fast/Furious" movies — we feel compelled to remind the internet that there are too many female action gods to ignore. (For more, visit metro.us) **MATT PRIGGE**

Pam Grier in "Coffy" MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES, GETTY IMAGES

Pam Grier

By the 1970s, the idea of women doing action was no longer verboten in Hollywood. But the ass-kicking women still had to be hot. Pam Grier would play the sex bomb, but she was the sex bomb that would claw your horndog face off. In "Coffy," Grier seeks the men who murdered her brother. She seduces her prey. Then, when they're blind with lust, she kills them real good. Grier was the avenging angel by way of siren, and you cheered as she took everyone out.

Sigourney Weaver in "Aliens" SHEILA PENN

Sigourney Weaver

In the original "Alien," Weaver's Ellen Ripley is mostly just trying to stay alive. By 1986's sequel, "Aliens," she was an action icon. But Ripley didn't just kill Xenomorphs real good. She was also the only person who kept a cool head; a frustrated loner undermined by male superiors; and a mother grieving her dead daughter, who finds her maternal instincts reawakened by the orphaned girl Newt. Ripley's not simply a woman doing "manly" things, but a complex person.

Linda Hamilton in "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" PROVIDED

Linda Hamilton

Like "Aliens," the second "Terminator" was not only bigger — it gave its female star more to do. In the first film, Linda Hamilton's Sarah Connor was an average woman, surprised to discover an android from the future was trying to kill her. By the second episode, she'd become almost as deadly as Arnold Schwarzenegger's T-100 itself. And like Ripley, she didn't merely bring the pain. She was intense, traumatized, unpredictable, sometimes even crazy or borderline unlikable.

Michelle Yeoh

Actresses from the '60s and '70s, like Meiko Kaji ("Lady Snowblood"), paved the way for all the powerful martial arts women of the '80s and '90s. Yeoh was arguably the era's best, though this slot could easily be filled by Maggie Cheung or Anita Mui. As it happens, all three of them teamed up in 1993's nutso "The Heroic Trio," in which women who had each held their own with Jackie Chan got to do a rip-roaring classic without the help of any men.

Michelle Yeoh in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" PROVIDED

Milla Jovovich in "Resident Evil" PROVIDED

Milla Jovovich

It really started with "The Fifth Element." Twenty summers ago, Jovovich took an unplayable character — she's not a person but a humanoid embodiment of one of the universe's basic elements — and turned her into an acrobatic dispatcher of baddies. It was a no-brainer to cast her in the "Resident Evil" movies, which could have been your usual video-game-movie dreck. Instead it's a showcase for one of history's greatest no-nonsense action stars.

Uma Thurman in "Kill Bill, Vol.1" MIRAMAX

Uma Thurman

Few roles are as tough as "Kill Bill's" The Bride. There's so much to do. She has to sword fight dozens, maybe hundreds of baddies. She has to endure the rigorous training of a kung fu master. She has to play a woman undone by the (she thinks) death of her unborn child. And Thurman pulled it all off without a hitch. We're still mystified she didn't receive a special Oscar for her troubles.

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Eagles secondary concerned with stopping stacked NFC East receivers

The Eagles' unproven group of cornerbacks will have its hands full trying to stop some of the NFL's best receivers.

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One of the biggest challenges for the Eagles next season, as they try to make the postseason for the first time since 2013, is how they'll approach the monumental task of handling the potent offenses in their division.

The NFC East boasts some of the most intimidating wide receiving corps in football, and recent history has shown that the Philly secondary has not been up to the task of stopping guys like Odell Beckham Jr. and Dez Bryant.

"Since I've been here the last three years we've asked a lot out of that corner position," Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "To play man-to-man, against the NFC East which continues to get better — this year we will try and relieve some of that stress with a few different coverages so that they're not out on an island the entire game. But there will be a lot of opportunities to go out and play press man-to-man and to win. Right now we are trying to evaluate the guys that we have that can win."

Jalen Mills, returning for his second season, has had experience covering big-name wideouts like Julio Jones and OBJ. His rookie year was up and down, but he'll be relied upon heavily in the upcoming season and the Eagles coaching staff is cautiously optimistic.

The Eagles will face Odell Beckham Jr. and the Giants twice, and will need a solid secondary to have any chance. GETTY IMAGES

"I'll sum his rookie season up: It was a rookie season," Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said. "There was some things that he did well, and he flashed. And there were times when he didn't play as well as we needed him to."

Incoming free agent Patrick Robinson is also expected to be a big piece of the secondary in 2017. He and returning Eagle Ron Brooks have been solid in OTAs thus far and have not only stated their cases to start at outside cornerback, they've also stepped up in the role of mentor for rookie Rasul Douglas.

At 6-foot-2, Douglas has the intangible speed and size to create a favorable match up against, say, 6-foot-4 Giants wide receiver Brandon Marshall. He just has to show he deserves playing time, as he did in practice Tuesday when he broke up four passes in a row during Eagles team drills.

"It boosts confidence," Douglas said. "I'm still waiting for my first interception — it is great to get a feel for the ball and route concepts."

Whether it's via scheme, talent or sheer good luck, something needs to change for the Eagles' dreary secondary as they look to compete in the NFC East in 2017.

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Four years ago, Delaware found itself below .500 at 26-27 despite having 33 wins the season prior.

Fast forward to the present, and the Blue Hens sit at 34-21 — the most wins since 2002 — and are fresh off the school's first ever CAA title after an impressive run as the No. 4 seed. Now they're preparing for their first College World Series appearance since 2001.

All of this shows one thing: Processes do work.

"You have eight seniors and all of those guys have performed pretty well," said Delaware manager Jim Sherman. "When you have that … it's a good ingredient to have a successful year, and that's how they played down the stretch."

That senior class, which saw four of them named to the CAA All-Tournament team including the bracket's MVP, Jeremy Ake, has taken a lot of pride in seeing how far this program has come over their four years.

The group was a part of back-to-back 26-win seasons as freshmen and sophomores, eventually increasing that total to 32 last season before breaking through with the 34 wins (and counting) this year.

"We have a great group of seniors, all of the teammates in my recruiting class had great leadership," said designated hitter Doug Trimble, who led the club with 73 hits and 48 RBI.

"We all stick together and all acted as leaders this year. There wasn't just one or two guys … everyone was their own leader and made the team come together nicely."

In order to reach the NCAA Tournament, Delaware needed to win their conference, doing just that with an impressive 4-0 run that saw them outscore opponents, 38-14, and only trail for three and a half innings total.

Delaware's process isn't over just yet, they're ready to make some noise on the grandest stage in college baseball.

They'll turn their attention to their first game in the regionals, a date with the nation's No. 3 ranked team, Texas Tech, before playing either Arizona State or Sam Houston State in the second game.

"We're taking it as another game," Trimble said. "It's obviously a bigger stage, but we're not going to change our game at all … I think everybody is on board and to just play with no fear."

Sherman, in his 17th year as the head coach, is hoping this success and the growth that came with it becomes the norm for Delaware baseball moving forward.

"We'd like to be in it year in and year out," Sherman said.

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metro.us/games

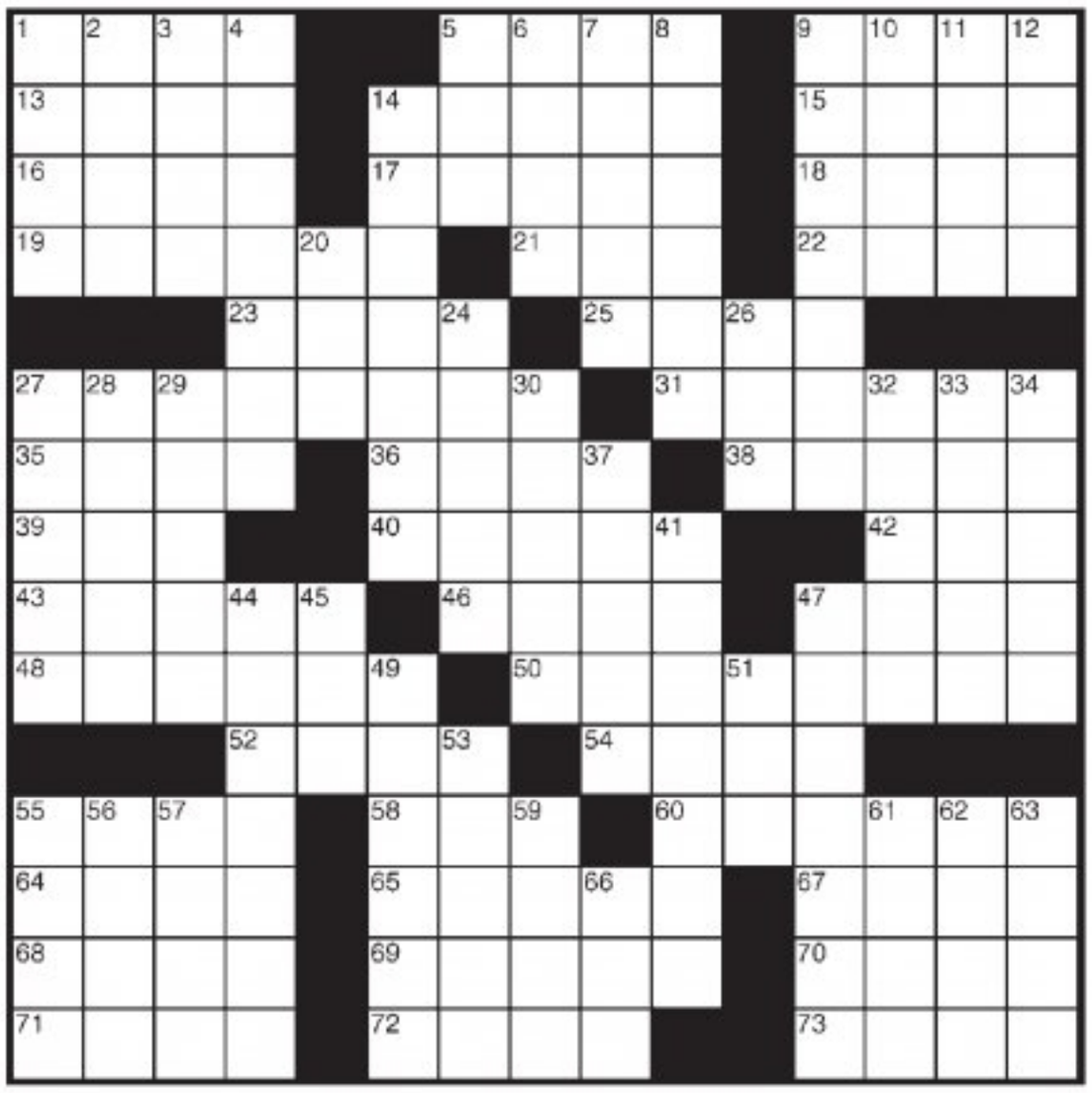
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Derrick arms
5 Ceremony
9 Wood-finishing oil
13 Overlook
14 Jots down
15 Fringe –
16 Syrup brand
17 Buck of "Hee Haw"
18 Contact via pager
19 Provides funds
21 Give – – break
22 Orpheus played it
23 Smirk's kin
25 Little kid
27 Firefly prison (2 wds.)
31 Cloth sample
35 Belgian river
36 Elevator guy
38 Shake a leg
39 Turkish title
40 Prove false
42 Wee woof
43 On the up and up
46 Ding a door
47 Vague amount
48 Heavy-hitting hammer
50 Tall beer glass
52 Fix
54 "Fatha" Hines
55 Kachina maker
58 Rover's greeting
60 Oater sounds
64 Maintain
65 Egypt's capital
67 Diner employee
68 Trout habitat
69 Sort of wave
70 A famous 500
71 Bolted
72 Six-sided crystals
73 Hardy lass

Down

1 Knock-knock, e.g.
2 Statuesque model
3 House starter
4 Cop's contact
5 Tough – to hoe
6 Gossip tidbit
7 Credo
8 Elia pieces
9 Scene
10 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
11 Not e'en once
12 Drop one's jaw
14 Face-saving measure? (2 wds.)
20 Squishy
24 Had status
26 Elec. measure
27 Paddock youngsters
28 First-magnitude star
29 Custom
30 Rubs the wrong way
32 Check for fit (2 wds.)
33 Whodunit must
34 Wired
37 "– when?"
41 Alcohol
44 Thought highly of
45 Size above med.
47 Canvass
49 Passes a bill
51 Natural resource
53 Sink hole
55 – nelson
56 Almond-shaped
57 Chinese pooch, slangily
59 Bowser's pal
61 Left
62 Coal scuttles
63 The – the limit!
66 Like crudites



metro.us/sudoku

easy

			3		5	4		
5	1			8			3	
	6					7		8
			1			6	2	3
9								7
7	2	6			3			
2		7					1	
	4			7			6	5
		5	8		4			

hard

1		5				2	9	
4	2			9			8	7
5		4	3					6
		3	7		6	8		
7					1	9		5
8	3			7			1	9
	4	7				5		8

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Use your intelligence and an emotional plea to manipulate others. The combination of smarts and heart will show how diverse and accommodating you can be.

Taurus Interact with people who can help you get something done. What you accomplish through such an association will be inspiring as well as prosperous.

Gemini Do whatever it takes to stabilize your home environment. Close the door on negativity, and walk away from people who use emotional manipulation to entice you.

Cancer Moderate and tasteful alterations to your home or lifestyle will be praised. Anyone trying to encourage you to go overboard should not be listened to.

Leo You can help others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Your generosity will be abused if you try to buy someone's love. Only offer what comes from the heart.

Virgo Make plans that will appeal to your intelligence as well as your emotions. Getting together with people will lead to information that takes you by surprise.

Libra Keep busy, as idle time will lead to an emotional frenzy that isn't likely to end well. Take care of your responsibilities early and move on to physical activities.

Scorpio Don't limit what you can do because of an obligation. Include the people who might feel left out if you want to accomplish your goals and improve your relationships.

Sagittarius Making personal improvements, going to a retreat or planning social arrangements will energize and enlighten you. Romance is encouraged.

Capricorn Home is where the heart is, and if you use your head, you will come up with a plan that will add to your comfort and help your assets grow.

Aquarius Emotional chaos will set in if you let certain situations get to you. Do your own thing and give others the privilege of following the path that suits them best.

Pisces Emotional discussions will lead to a meltdown. If you have too many responsibilities and demands, find a solution that excuses you from taking part. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

Y	A	W	N	S		M	A	I	L		T	A	B	S
O	R	I	O	N		A	N	N	O		O	L	E	S
D	E	L	T	A		R	I	F	F		P	A	R	T
A	S	T	I	R		C	L	O	T	T	I	N	G	
			C	E	O			R	Y	E				
R	I	M	E		A	D	A	M		N	O	P	A	L
A	N	Y		T	S	A	R		F	O	R	A	G	E
R	U	N	S	R	I	N	G	S	A	R	O	U	N	D
E	R	A	S	E	S		O	A	K	S		L	E	G
R	E	H	E	M		A	N	T	E		V	A	S	E
			O	W	L			R	H	O				
	R	E	T	R	I	E	V	E		E	L	A	T	E
M	I	D	I		E	R	S	T		E	L	F	I	N
S	T	A	N		S	T	O	A		L	E	A	K	Y
G	A	M	E		T	S	P	S		S	Y	R	I	A

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